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**Subject:** Belmont Bridge Replacement Project Status Report – August 2018



## **BELMONT BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT STATUS REPORT – AUGUST 2018**

City Council recently reviewed the results of the Design Public Hearing at their regularly scheduled meeting on July 16, 2018. The major design features were approved as presented at the hearing with the following changes as a result of public comment collected:

1. Re-open access point or driveway entrance to Champion Brewing Company on South Street;
2. Add a bicycle ramp on corner of Levy Avenue and Monticello Road to create a connection between the neighborhood street and shared use path; and
3. Create of a pedestrian path that connects the pedestrian tunnel to new public, offstreet parking spaces to Old Avon Street (south of Avon/9th Street).

Responses to all public comment received at the Design Public Hearing is available online on the project website ([www.belmontbridge.org](http://www.belmontbridge.org)) under the Design Public Hearing on the Resources tab.

**The next major milestone for the project will be the request for a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Board of Architectural Review (BAR) at their regularly scheduled meeting on September 18, 2018.** The meeting will be held in City Council Chambers and begins at 5:30pm (estimated time the project will be discussed will be posted [here](#) on September 5, 2018). After the presentation by City staff and the project team, members of the public will be allowed two opportunities to speak. The Chair will first ask for questions from the public, then from the BAR. After questions are closed, the Chair will ask for comments from the public. Members of

the public will have, for each case, up to three minutes to ask questions, and up to three minutes to comment. The meeting will also be televised on [TV10](#).

In preparation for this meeting, **a work session is scheduled with BAR for August 9, 2018 at the Water Street Conference Center (407 E. Water Street) from 12:00pm to 2:00pm.** This will be a working meeting between the project team and BAR to ensure the application and project materials are ready for the September BAR meeting by properly addressing concerns previously raised on [August 14, 2017](#) by the Board. The work session will be open to the public, however, no verbal public comment will be taken. Written comments will be accepted and reviewed by the project team before the September BAR presentation.

## Project Work Activities

### Work in Process

- Developing Packet for Submission to the Virginia Department of Transportation for Design Approval with City Council's acceptance and approval of the Design Public Hearing.
- Preparing for work session with BAR to receive a Certificate of Appropriateness for the bridge project.
- Responding to Buckingham Branch Railroad's comments on the 60% plans and coordinating next meeting to discuss possible elimination of railroad protective fencing.

### Upcoming Work (now-September 2018)

- Review of Phase II Geotechnical Borings Report.
- Review of Stage I Report for pedestrian tunnel and "knuckle" design connecting the bridge to the Downtown Mall.
- Preparing for September 2018 Board of Architectural Review meeting for a Certificate of Appropriateness.
- Scheduling and holding Value Engineering (VE) Study. VE Studies are required for all transportation projects with a construction value over \$15 million to ensure taxpayer dollars are invested responsibly and opportunities for cost savings are explored while still meeting the project's purpose and need.
- Completing an appropriation to commit all funding to project through construction phase.

## Project Overview

The bridge replacement project is striving to address four specific needs:

1. to improve safety for the traveling public;
2. to provide pedestrian and bicyclist accommodations;
3. to maintain connectivity with the surrounding community, neighborhoods and business activity centers; and
4. to accommodate vehicular traffic volumes.

The preferred concept proposes to address these needs with the following approved major design features:

- A replacement bridge that is shortened to approximately 236 LF in length and maintains the existing 62' width
- Roadway Section on Avon/9<sup>th</sup> Street between Levy Avenue and East Market Street intersections will consist of one travel lane in each direction, a protected 7' wide bike lane in each direction and a 10' wide pedestrian sidewalk in each direction. Turning lanes will be added/lengthened at each intersection to maximize efficiency of each signal while maintaining traffic flow.
- "Old" Avon Street will be closed to vehicular traffic between Levy Avenue and East South Street to improve the function and safety of the Levy Avenue/9th Street intersection for all modes of travel while creating a pedestrian plaza within the former roadway.
- Enhanced pedestrian lighting and landscaping will be provided along 9th Street between Levy Avenue and East Market Street.
- New sidewalk will be constructed along neighboring streets to the project corridor and landscaping will be installed – on East South Street, Avon Street, Graves Street and Water Street.
- Additional new proposed pedestrian features include:
  - a pedestrian passageway under 9th Street south of the railroad,
  - a reconstructed staircase connecting "Old" Avon Street to 9th Street,
  - new staircases from 9th Street to Water Street on either side of the bridge north of the railroad and a mezzanine to cross 9th Street under the bridge

## Website

For more information about the Belmont Bridge Replacement project, please visit the [project web site](#).